

Committee Members Present: Joseph Andaya
John “Jack” Ardner
Jacob Cleverley
Tim Fier
Amanda Gayken
Jack Hollis
Cathy Keathley
Britt McConn (Joined the meeting at 6:36 p.m.)
Dana Stroud
Diana Marcela Wash

Staff Present: Kevin McConnell, City Attorney
Margarita Contreras, Administrative Assistant
Dara Wright, Paralegal

A public meeting of the Charter Review Committee (CRC) was called to order by Chair Joseph Andaya, on the 7th of February, 2022, at 6:01 p.m., via Zoom. The meeting was digitally recorded and minutes were prepared by Dara Wright.

1. PUBLIC TESTIMONY.

Lee Dayfield provided oral testimony at the meeting. She was a member of the 2019 CRC which was disbanded due to Covid-19 in 2020. She encouraged the CRC to review the testimony provided to the 2019 CRC. She suggested that the CRC consider amendments to Chapters 3, 4, and 5 of the Charter. She was supportive of the CRC considering a district/ward versus an at-large election system.

Written testimony was received from Dave Dyk. He provided testimony regarding the topic of at-large versus district elections. He stated that at-large elections can serve to limit access from historically under-represented groups and exacerbate racial and economic injustice. Mr. Dyk provided historical details of the election systems in the City of Gresham. He noted that the vast majority of City Councilors elected in the at-large voting system in Gresham have been either significant landowners or previously active in local business community organizations, which may exclude important parts of the community, and lead to increasingly expensive and polarized local election campaigns. He stated that every resident in a democracy deserves adequate representation, which has not been the case with the at-large system.

Written testimony was received from Paul Wilcox. He provided 9 attachments to the CRC for their review:

- 1.) Gresham 60%: Mr. Wilcox noted that Chair Andaya mentioned that the CRC may want to consider changing the requirement that a Charter Amendment received 60% of votes to pass, by changing the requirement to 50% +1, or a simple majority. He queried whether the lower requirement would apply to other Amendments on the same ballot, assuming it passed.
- 2.) Gresham Charter Proofread: Recommendations to amend the Charter in Sections 8, 20, 27, 32, and 46.
- 3.) Gresham Charter: A spreadsheet with a list of ballot measures recommended by previous CRC's, whether the measures passed, as well as the percentage of "yes" votes from 1986-2012.
- 4.) Gresham City Council Candidate Distribution: A list of City Council candidate distribution by year from 1994-2020.
- 5.) Gresham Election Results, 2018: A list of 2018 candidates that ran for Mayor, Council Positions 2, 4, and 6, and the percentage of votes each candidate received.
- 6.) Gresham Elections: A spreadsheet with a list of Mayors and City Council members from 1998-2018.
- 7.) Gresham Wards, etc. Intro: Mr. Wilcox stated that he did research regarding two topics of interest of the CRC, election of Councilors according to geographic wards/districts, and term limits for Councilors and Mayor.
- 8.) Gresham Term Limits, etc.: A list summarizing current term limits in Hillsboro, Milwaukie, Oregon City, Tualatin, Lake Oswego, Molalla, Sherwood, and Tigard. The list also includes cities in Oregon that currently hold elections using a ward/district system.
- 9.) Gresham, Top Three: Mr. Wilcox stated that a Charter Amendment was placed on the November 2020 ballot in Troutdale to return to a "Top Three" system, where voters would select three candidates from among all that were running. The measure was passed by the voters 58%-42%.

There was discussion on whether the CRC would like to give attendees the opportunity to provide oral testimony up to three minutes to the CRC, even if they did not register prior to the meeting. City Attorney Kevin McConnell stated that this was not noted in the information provided to the public, but that the City Attorney's Office (CAO) would include that information on documents for future CRC meetings.

2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

Minutes from the January 10, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved by the committee.

3. REVIEW CITY CHARTER AND COMPILE PRIORITY LIST.

Mr. McConnell gave an update to the CRC regarding a recent resignation of a member of the committee. Michelle Reid resigned from the CRC. The current CRC has 10 members.

Member Stroud discussed how the CRC would structure education, training, and the input needed to ensure that decisions fairly represent everyone in the community. The CRC discussed the need to reach out to people, groups, and communities and invite them to provide oral or written testimony to the CRC.

There was discussion regarding possible subcommittees or changes to the time of meetings of the CRC, so that there are more opportunities for members of the community to participate and provide information to the CRC.

Mr. McConnell introduced CAO staff member Margarita Contreras.

Member Stroud proposed bringing in a facilitator of color to provide training and a presentation to the CRC and help guide conversations so the CRC can get input from community-based organizations and members of the community who may have opinions about the decision-making process of the CRC. Mr. McConnell stated he would follow up with Ms. Stroud to collect further details regarding possibly hiring a facilitator to present to the CRC.

An attendee of the meeting, Laurie Palmer of the Go Get Your Child Violence Prevention Coalition, wrote that she had something to say in the Zoom meeting chat. There was discussion on whether the CRC would like to invite Laurie Palmer to provide her oral testimony at that time, later in the meeting, or at a future meeting. After discussion, the CRC voted on whether to proceed with reviewing the Charter or to allow Ms. Palmer to speak first. The majority of members present voted to proceed with the review of the Charter, and the CRC invited Ms. Palmer to provide her oral testimony at the end of the meeting.

The CRC went through the Charter together, reviewing each chapter and section. Members were invited to share sections which they were interested in discussing and possibly amending.

Chapter & Section	Member(s) Interested
Chapter 3, Section 10(b)	Cleverley, Andaya
Chapter 3, Section 7	Gayken, Stroud, Ardner
Chapter 3, Section 9A	Stroud, Andaya, Gayken
Chapter 3, Section 8	Stroud, Ardner, Andaya, Fier
Chapter 3, Title	Ardner
Chapter 3, Sections 7, 8, 9 (relocating to Chapter 6)	Ardner

Chapter 3, Section 10(a)	Stroud, Andaya
Chapter 3, Section 11(b)	McConn, Andaya
Chapter 4, Section 13	Andaya
Chapter 4, Section 14	Ardner, McConn, Gayken
Chapter 4, Section 16	Andaya, Wash
Chapter 4, Section 18A	McConn
Chapter 5, Section 20(c)(10)	Ardner
Chapter 5, Section 20(a)	Gayken
Chapter 5, Section 20(b)	Andaya
Chapter 5, Section 20(e)	Keathley
Chapter 5, Section 20(g)	Stroud
Chapter 5, Section 21(a)	Ardner, Stroud, McConn, Wash
Chapter 5, Section 21(c)	Stroud, Wash
Chapter 5, Section 21A	Keathley, Andaya, Gayken
Chapter 5, Section 27	Andaya
Chapter 8, Section 34(b)(4)	Ardner
Chapter 9, Section 36A	Wash, McConn, Hollis
Chapter 9, Section 36B	Stroud
Chapter 10, Section 42B	Andaya
Chapter 10, Section 40	Gayken
Chapter 11, Section 45A	Andaya, Ardner
Chapter 11, Section 45B	Andaya, McConn
Chapter 11, Section 46	Andaya
Chapter 11, Section 47	Stroud, McConn

The CRC also shared topics of interest to add to the Charter.

Topic	Member(s) Interested
Remove use of “he” or “she” and replace with “they” throughout Charter	Hollis
Board of Ethics	McConn
Eligibility for voting	Stroud, Andaya, Wash
Day off/city “holiday” for on election day	McConn, Andaya
Public utilities/internet as a public utility	Andaya, Wash
Community gardens	Wash

Sustainable industry/conditions for contracts with the City	Andaya, McConn
Participatory Budgeting	McConn, Stroud, Andaya
City Auditor	Andaya, Ardner
Establish campaign funding limits and contributing reporting procedures for elected officials	Ardner, Andaya
Preamble	Ardner
Require City to develop people-drive City strategic vision and identity	Ardner
Restructure citizen advisory committees and require annual work plan and annual report for City Council	Ardner
Requirements for code of conduct complaints or violations for police officers	McConn, Ardner
Voting method	Andaya
Citizen review board for police	Andaya

4. DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.

The CRC agreed that they would submit their prioritized lists of suggested changes or additions to the Charter to CAO staff, to be compiled into one document and reviewed and discussed at a future meeting.

The CRC discussed the importance of receiving input from the public before deciding which issues would be of top priority and interest for the CRC. Mr. McConnell stated that he would speak with the City Manager or someone from the City's Communications Department about internal and external resources available to the CRC for public outreach.

Vice Chair Ardner brought up the question of whether the CRC's goal was to make a recommendation to Council regarding Resolution 3478 in time to put a ballot measure on November 2022 general election. The CRC discussed the importance of having enough time to receive input and prepare their recommendation, while also noting that general elections typically have the most voter participation.

The CRC also discussed possibly submitting a sub-final report on the specific issue of at-large versus district/ward election system first, and then subsequently focusing on other items of interest once the sub-final report was complete. Chair Andaya asked what the timeline would be in terms of submitting a sub-final report to Council in time to put a measure on the November 2022 election. Mr. McConnell stated that he would ask the City Recorder for the specific date of when a report would need to be submitted to City Council.

Vice Chair Ardner recommended that the CRC invite the Lewis & Clark professors to present to the committee as soon as possible. Member Wash suggested determining a date that the Lewis & Clark professors are available to present at the CRC's next meeting. The CRC voted and the majority of members present voted to have the Lewis & Clark professors' presentation as an Agenda item at the next meeting.

The CRC also discussed the possible formation of subcommittees who may meet more frequently than once per month. They agreed to discuss subcommittees and public input in further detail at the next meeting.

5. SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETING.

The date of the next CRC meeting will be determined after CAO obtains available dates from the Lewis & Clark professors.

Laurie Palmer of the Go Get Your Child Violence Prevention Coalition provided oral testimony at the end of the meeting. She emphasized the importance of serving the community in Gresham. She encouraged the CRC to do as many trainings as they can, and learn about other cultures, noting that the CRC can make plans which impact community members' lives. She also encouraged the CRC to let diverse communities have a voice and participate in important conversations. Member Hollis asked Ms. Palmer how the CRC could be serving the community better. She said that the CRC can have diverse voices at the table, including African Americans and other groups which are not represented by the members of the CRC, and find ways to engage with the community overall. She stated that she would compile a list of people who the CRC could invite to future meetings and would submit that list to Member Stroud.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.